

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Office Action of March 16, 2005 and the Advisory Action of July 6, 2005. In this response, Applicants amended selected claims to provide a more complete scope of protection for the invention and present clarifying remarks believed to remedy the Examiner's rejections and place the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 11-15 were allowed, which is gratefully acknowledged.

The Examiner objected to claims 3-5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. It was indicated that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The amendment to claim 1 is deemed to overcome this rejection.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated March 16, 2005, a proposed Amendment After Final Office Action was submitted on June 16, 2005.

An Advisory Action was mailed on July 6, 2005 indicating that the proposed amendments raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

In the present Amendment After Final, Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome the rejections raised against it by rewriting objected to, original claim 2 in verbatim independent form.

Since the Examiner previously acknowledged that the prior art fails to teach or suggest all the limitations, this claim is now in condition for allowance. Claims 7, 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. As to claims dependent from amended claim 1, namely claims 4-6 and amended claims 8-10, respectively, these claims merely further patentably define the subject matter of their parent claim. For at least this reason, claims 4-6 and 8-10 are also patentable over the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present Amendment removes issues for appeal, or in some other way, requires only a cursory review by the Examiner. The

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claims as amended do not raise any issues with regard to new matter, do not present new issues requiring further search or consideration and/or place the application into better form for appeal. Accordingly, the Amendment should be entered and the application allowed.

CONCLUSION

All formal and informal matters have been addressed. For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15) are now in condition for allowance.


No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment After Final. If, however, a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

In the event the Examiner believes a telephone call would expedite prosecution, she is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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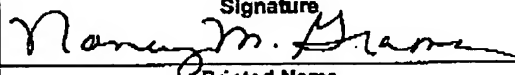
Date: 15 July, 2005


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
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